

March 22, 2001

**BE AN ORIGINAL COSPONSOR FOR THE
*CORPS OF ENGINEERS REFORM ACT OF 2001***

Dear Colleague:

I invite you to be an original cosponsor for the *Corps of Engineers Reform Act of 2001*. Frequent claims that Corps' projects lack economic justification and adequate consideration of environmental provisions point to the need for revision in the Corps' planning process of water resources projects.

This bill will lift the cloud hanging over the Corps, creating greater public trust and enabling this agency to continue its critical work on our nation's waterways. To achieve this goal, this legislation will increase transparency and accountability in the Corps' planning process. It also strikes a balance between economic and environmental considerations and increases public access to information.

Based on recommendations from two studies conducted by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences ("New Directions in Water Resources Planning for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers" in 1999 and "Inland Navigation System Planning: The Upper Mississippi River—Illinois Waterway" this year), this bill will:

- create new public and expert review procedures through establishment of Stakeholder Advisory Committees and an Independent Review Panel,
- include a broader range of stakeholders in the Corps' planning process for water resources projects and increase their access to information,
- establish balance between economic and environmental considerations in project planning, and
- improve cost-benefit analyses and eliminate biases in the planning process that underestimate nonstructural approaches to flood control.

Please join me in the effort to bring fiscal responsibility and environmental accountability to the Corps of Engineers. To be an original cosponsor or for more information, please contact Laura Cimo of my staff at 5-5506.

Sincerely,

Ron Kind